

*Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary Season*

# YORK COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

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*presents*

# MESSIAH

**PART I** *& more*

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**DECEMBER 6, 2015**

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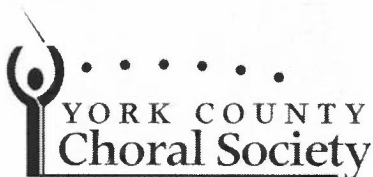
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## GREETINGS FROM OUR YCCS PRESIDENT...

Dear York County Choral Society Friends,

We welcome you to the first concert of our 35th season and greatly appreciate your support! We are delighted that you have joined us today to celebrate the beginning of



your holiday season with George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*. This concert promises to be a special one as the YCCS is collaborating with talented singers from five local churches whose names are listed in our program. Mr. Don Piers, Music Director of Westminster Presbyterian Church, presented our Board of Directors with this idea, and we found it to be a great way to celebrate our united love of Handel's *Messiah*. We also have designated the charitable organization **Toys for Happiness** as the recipient of a portion of today's concert proceeds, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to give back to those in need this time of year. We thank Mr. Piers for his creative thinking, his generosity, musical talent, and hard work behind the scenes in assisting us with realizing this artistic project.

In addition, we would like to take this time to thank the YCCS Board of Directors, our Artistic Director, Dr. Katherine Kinsey, and our patrons for their generous contributions to our organization. Most importantly we thank our singers (whose ages range from high school to retirement) for their diligence and musical dedication. We also want to take this opportunity to invite *you* to join us as a member of our choir as we continue to bring great choral works to the city of Rock Hill. Please visit us online at our website [www.yorkcountychoralsociety.org](http://www.yorkcountychoralsociety.org) for more information regarding membership and our upcoming spring concert at Winthrop University on April 24, 2016!

Happy Holidays!

**Jennifer Buck**

President, York County Choral Society

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# York County Choral Society

and singers from Rock Hill area churches

present

## Messiah

### Organ Prelude

Greg Reynolds, organist

In Dulci Jubilo	J. S. Bach
Angels From the Realms of Glory	Edwin Johnson
Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming	Johannes Brahms
Silent Night	David Conte
O Come, All Ye Faithful	Page Long
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	Janet Linker

### Messiah

George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)

*Kristen Wunderlich, soprano; J.L. McDaniel-Milliken, mezzo-soprano*

*Todd Geer, tenor; Zachary Hugo, baritone*

- i. Sinfonia (Overture)
- ii. Recitative Comfort ye my people
- iii. Aria Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
- iv. Chorus And the glory of the Lord
- v. Recitative Thus saith the Lord
- vi. Aria But who may abide the day of his coming?
- vii. Chorus And he shall purify
- viii. Recitative Behold, a virgin shall conceive
- ix. Aria & Chorus O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion
- x. Recitative For behold, darkness shall cover the earth
- xi. Aria The people that walked in darkness
- xii. Chorus For unto us a child is born
- xiii. Pifa ('Pastoral Symphony')
- xiv. a Recitative There were shepherds abiding in the field
- xiv. b Recitative And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them
- xv. Recitative And the angel said unto them
- xvi. Recitative And suddenly there was with the angel
- xvii. Chorus Glory to God
- xviii. Aria Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion
- xix. Recitative Then shall the eyes of the blind
- xx. Aria He shall feed his flock
- xxi. Chorus His yoke is easy, and his burden is light
- xliv. Chorus Hallelujah

## — Special Thanks —

The York County Choral Society is grateful for the opportunity to perform this great work with talented singers from the Rock Hill church choirs of Westminster Presbyterian Church (Don Piers, director), First ARP Church (Patrick Robinson, director), St. John's Methodist Church (Mary Ann Helton, director), Grace Lutheran Church (Matthew McCall, former director), and Neely's Creek Presbyterian Church (Greg Reynolds, director). We have been blessed by their presence in our rehearsals and within this performance, and we wish to thank them and their directors for the time they have spent with us in order to make this performance a success.

It has truly been an honor and pleasure to work with each and every one of you! Also, a special thank you to Don Piers and the Westminster Presbyterian Church staff for hosting this concert, planning and constructing our performance set as well as the graciousness that they exude each week on our behalf in providing space for the York County Choral Society's rehearsals.

## Toys For Happiness Our Charity Beneficiary



YCCS will donate a portion of tonight's concert proceeds to local children's charity, Toys For Happiness. This charity brings joy to local children at Christmas by collecting donations of toys at local businesses and distributing them to families who need assistance.

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## Instrumental Personnel

### Violin I :

Marsha Gross, Teresa Curran, Adam Kapfhamer

### Violin II:

Laurie Neal, Michele Thompson, Christopher Westcott

### Viola:

Amanda Turner, Courtney Guthrie, Laci Wargo

### Cello:

Zack Bammann, Steven Welborn

### Double Bass:

Eric Thompson

### Oboe:

Haley Willis

### Trumpet:

Courtney Wyatt, John Brooks

### Percussion:

Will Keith

### Organ:

Greg Reynolds

### Rehearsal Accompanist:

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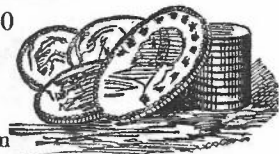
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# York County Choral Society Chorus Personnel

## Soprano :

Jeri Jean Cornwell, †Martha Cowan, Kathy Faris,  
Kristen Herndon, Jeanie James, Pat Johnson, Katharine Linker,  
Lauren Mobley, \*Gayle Sawyer, Christa Boney, Amanda Chrismon,  
Judy Cowell, Breona Foster, Rachel Hunger, Megan Lee, Lisa Loflin,  
Vania Love, Katy Motsinger, Martha Murray, Breana Stokes

## Alto :

Jessica Bennett, Jennifer Buck, Mary Beth Burton, Kathryn Byar,  
Linda Caines, Mary Beth Carr, Zalandria Crosby,  
Mary Anne Gomulinski, Jessica Hall, Jaysha Perry, \*Irene Pointon,  
Lauren Romero, Victoria Smith, Jordan Vollman,  
Billie Rae Chamberlain, †Susan Kelly, Sangwon Sohn, Susan Vogel

## Tenor :

David Caines, Neifert Cornejo, †Jeff Culp, T.J. Williams,  
†Chris Fischesser, \*Jonathan Hall, Alex Jones, Don Moe,  
George Sawyer, Jim Welsh

## Bass/Baritone :

Ralph Johnson, Zack Jones, Gordon Schmidt,  
Harry Tune, Nathaniel Williams, †Page Connelly, John Herndon,  
David Hood, \*Tim Moe, Albert Ward, Carrot Williams

*\* denotes section leader*

*†denotes founding member*

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## Collaborating Church Choirs

### Westminster Presbyterian Church - Don Piers, Director

**Soprano** : Deborah Ashman, Sally Bell, Jan Blaylock,  
Nancye Gehlbach, Melissa Gray, Janet Hendley, Margaret Leonard,  
Rebekah Loftis, Evelyn Netzler, Judy O'Neal, Robyn Piers,  
Mary Quiminer, Karla Ratliff, Amy Saal, Rebecca Shore,  
Ruthie Strubbe, Kathy Weathers, Olivia G. Williams

**Alto** : Mary Chandler-McVann, Sharon Cole, Jerry C. Ghantt,  
Miriam Lambert, Bea Loftis, Carolyn Whitener

**Tenor** : Russell Belcher, Larry Loftis, Bill Mauney, Don Piers

**Bass** : Charlie Blaylock,  
Robert Gray, Dave Harrell,  
Brian Harty, Mike Loftis,  
Wayne Palmer,  
Bruce H. Spencer,  
Roland Weathers, Brian Wuest

### St. John's Methodist Church - Mary Ann Helton, Director

**Soprano** : Ruth Ann Pitt

**Alto** : Judy Griffin

**Tenor** : Doug Pitt

**Bass** : Jim Thomas,  
James Daniel Curran

### First ARP Church, Rock Hill - Patrick Robinson, Director

**Soprano** : Linda Bridges, Jane  
Fleischer • **Alto** : Bobbie Aycock,  
Erin McManus,  
Marsha Vogel

**Bass** : David Barkley, Paul Gettys, Rick Norwood, Bill Vogel

### Neely's Creek ARP Church - Greg Reynolds, Director

**Soprano** : Jennifer Fairbairn

**Tenor** : Evelyn Harper

**Bass** : Joe Faris, David Leslie, Buddy Auten, Jordan Locke

### Grace Lutheran Church - Matthew McCall, Former Director

**Alto** : Amy Cassidy, Jennifer Landsly

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# Program Notes

## *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

George Frideric Handel is considered to be one of the leading composers of Baroque choral music. Hailed as both a German and British musician, he became famous for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and concertos. He received his musical training in Hamburg and Italy before settling in London where he later became a British subject.

*Messiah* is an oratorio in three parts. It is set for four solo voices, chorus, and chamber orchestra. Part I of the work is prophetic and imparts Christ's coming and the virgin birth as predicted by the Old Testament prophets. This section also utilizes the New Testament book of St. Luke with regard to the annunciation to the shepherds of the nativity. Part II covers Christ's passion, crucifixion and resurrection, and Part III focuses on our salvation, the day of judgment and the victory of Christianity over death. The librettist for the work was Charles Jennens, a wealthy, British aristocrat who possessed a passion for literature and music.

The oratorio was written in 24 days and originally debuted in Dublin, Ireland in 1742. The work was officially published eight years before Handel's death in 1767. The enthusiastic premier of the work in Ireland was not repeated in London, but *Messiah* increased in popularity for years to come through international exposure at music festivals, cathedrals, and concerts. It is, by far, one of choral literature's most revered and valued works.



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## Featured Performers

### Kristen Wunderlich, *soprano*

Dr. Kristen Wunderlich holds a B.A. degree in music and English from Luther College and M.M. and DMA degrees in performance with a related field of vocal pedagogy from the University of North Texas. A young dramatic soprano, she has been active on stage in both oratorio and opera. She first appeared with the York County Choral Society in 2008 in Handel's *Messiah*, as the soprano soloist in Verdi's *Requiem* in 2011, as the soprano soloist for a Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden* in 2013, and as the soprano for our performances of Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* and Finzi's *In Terra Pax* in 2014. She also has been featured with the Orchestra of New Spain, the Helios Ensemble, Texas Choral Artists, Texas Chamber Orchestra, Denton Bach Society, and the Williamsport Civic Orchestra. In addition, she has performed in such operas as *Don Giovanni*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Gianni Schicchi*. Her teachers impressively include Stephen Austin and Rebecca Turner. Dr. Wunderlich has served as the Chair of Vocal Studies at Winthrop University where she instructs private voice, vocal pedagogy, and art song literature. Her students have portrayed lead and supporting roles in operas, have been featured in solo recitals, and have placed as finalists at the annual State and Regional National Association of Teachings of Singing.

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## J.L. McDaniel-Milliken, *mezzo-soprano*

J.L. McDaniel-Milliken holds master's degrees in Vocal Performance from Winthrop University and in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. She is the Music Library Director and an Instructor of Music at Winthrop, having taught Opera Literature, Diction for Singers, Vocal Methods, and private voice lessons. Ms. McDaniel-Milliken performed the title roles in operatic productions of *Suor Angelica* and *Dido and Aeneas*. She has been a soloist in performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and many other sacred works. Ms. McDaniel-Milliken has also performed in numerous musicals, recitals, choral concerts, and festivals throughout York, Richland, and Mecklenburg Counties.



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## Todd Geer, *tenor*

American tenor, Todd Geer, is an accomplished and versatile artist who is highly regarded for his well-defined characterizations and musical interpretations. Career highlights include the leading tenor roles in *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Stiffelio*, *I Masnadieri*, *Cavaleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *La Farsa Amorosa (Zandonai)*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Manon Lescaut*, *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Carmen*. Mr. Geer has performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Diego Opera, Opera Carolina, Teatro Grattacielo, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Bangkok Opera, Siam Opera, Festival Musique de St. Barth's, Festival of the Aegean and has appeared in concert in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, L'Aréna de Nîmes, Aix-en Provence, Annecy and Syros, Greece. Mr. Geer was awarded the prestigious Adler Fellowship with San Francisco Opera in 1999 where he performed as resident artist for two seasons. A native and current resident of Charlotte, N.C., Todd Geer holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Binghamton University. He is on the Voice faculties of Winthrop University, Opera Carolina Academy, Community School of the Arts of Charlotte, and the Gaston School of the Arts.



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## Zachary Hugo, *baritone*

Zachary Hugo, a native of Sumter, S.C., is an active performer, voice teacher, and choral director. His primary voice teachers include Jerry Helton, John Fowler, Jeffery Black, and Kristen Wunderlich. Mr. Hugo's solo work includes performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Great Mass in C minor*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Bach's *Magnificat*, and Haydn's *Creation*. An avid church musician, Mr. Hugo has held positions as Assistant Director of Music Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Sumter, S.C., and Director of Choirs at Our Lady of the Skies Catholic Community at Shaw AFB, S.C. He currently serves as Director of Music Ministries and Organist at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, S.C. Mr. Hugo received his Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance in 2008 from Winthrop University. Currently, Mr. Hugo is pursuing a Master of Music degree in choral conducting at Winthrop University where he serves as the Graduate Assistant to Dr. Katherine Kinsey in the choral program and Assistant Director of the Winthrop University Chorale and Chamber Singers. He most recently performed the baritone solo in the December 2014 YCCS performance of Finzi's *In Terra Pax* and our spring 2015 performance of Mozart's *Requiem*.

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**Dr. Katherine S. Kinsey,  
YCCS Artistic Director and Conductor**

Dr. Katherine Kinsey serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Winthrop University. She is in her eighteenth year as a choral music faculty member where she directs the Winthrop Chorale and the Winthrop Chamber Singers, teaches graduate and undergraduate choral conducting, instructs music education classes, and supervises student teachers in choral music education. She was appointed the new Artistic Director and Conductor of the York County Choral Society in 2012. She holds a master's degree in Music Education from UNC-Greensboro and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in conducting from the University of South Carolina. She began her teaching career in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, where she taught middle and high school choral music for thirteen years prior to her appointment at Winthrop and simultaneously worked with the Community School of the Arts teaching voice, piano, and music theory for seven years. In addition, she frequently serves as a clinician of choral festivals for both middle and high school singers; as an adjudicator for choral contests/festivals; and works annually with high school choral and church music programs as a consultant offering guidance with regard to choral singing, score interpretation, and festival preparation.



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